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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Renal denervation in patients with resistant hypertension: Six-month results $^{\,\!\!\!/}$



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KEYWORDS

Resistant hypertension; Renal denervation; Left ventricular hypertrophy

Abstract

Introduction: Increased activation of the sympathetic nervous system plays a central role in the pathophysiology of hypertension (HTN). Catheter-based renal denervation (RDN) was recently developed for the treatment of resistant HTN.

Aim: To assess the safety and efficacy of RDN for blood pressure (BP) reduction at six months in patients with resistant HTN.

Methods: In this prospective registry of patients with essential resistant HTN who underwent RDN between July 2011 and May 2013, the efficacy of RDN was defined as \geq 10 mmHg reduction in office systolic blood pressure (SBP) six months after the intervention.

Results: In a resistant HTN outpatient clinic, 177 consecutive patients were evaluated, of whom 34 underwent RDN (age 62.7 ± 7.6 years; 50.0% male). There were no vascular complications, either at the access site or in the renal arteries. Of the 22 patients with complete six-month follow-up, the response rate was 81.8% (n=18). The mean office SBP reduction was 22 mmHg (174 ±23 vs. 152 ± 22 mmHg; p<0.001) and 9 mmHg in diastolic BP (89 ±16 vs. 80 ± 11 mmHg; p=0.006). The number of antihypertensive drugs (5.5 ± 1.0 vs. 4.6 ± 1.1 ; p=0.010) and pharmacological classes (5.4 ± 0.7 vs. 4.6 ± 1.1 ; p=0.009) also decreased significantly. Of the 24-hour ambulatory BP monitoring and echocardiographic parameters analyzed, there were significant reductions in diastolic load (45 ± 29 vs. $27\pm26\%$; p=0.049) and in left ventricular mass index (174 ± 56 vs. 158 ± 60 g/m²; p=0.014).

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Conclusion: In this cohort of patients with resistant HTN, RDN was safe and effective, with a significant BP reduction at six-month follow-up.

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PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Hipertensão arterial resistente; Desnervação renal; Hipertrofia ventricular esquerda

Desnervação renal em doentes com hipertensão arterial resistente: resultados aos seis meses de seguimento

Resumo

Introdução: O aumento da atividade do sistema nervoso simpático desempenha um papel preponderante na fisiopatologia da hipertensão arterial (HTA). Recentemente foi desenvolvida uma técnica de intervenção percutânea – a desnervação renal (DNR) – para o tratamento da HTA resistente.

Objetivo: Avaliar a segurança imediata e a eficácia da DNR aos seis meses na redução da pressão arterial em doentes com HTA resistente.

Métodos: Registo prospetivo de doentes com HTA essencial resistente submetidos a DNR entre julho de 2011 e maio de 2013. A eficácia da DNR foi definida pela redução ≥10 mmHg da pressão arterial sistólica (PAS), avaliada na consulta dos seis meses de seguimento.

Resultados: Numa consulta de HTA resistente avaliaram-se 177 doentes consecutivos, dos quais 34 (idade $62,7\pm7,6$ anos; 50,0% homens) efetuaram DNR. Não ocorreram complicações vasculares, nomeadamente no acesso ou nas artérias renais. Nos 22 doentes com seguimento completo aos seis meses, a taxa de respondedores foi 81,8% (n=18). A PAS na consulta diminuiu em média 22 mmHg (174 ± 23 versus 152 ± 22 mmHg; p<0,001) e a diastólica 9 mmHg (174 ± 23 versus 152 ± 22 mmHg; p<0,001) e a diastólica 9 mmHg (174 ± 23 versus 152 ± 22 mmHg; p<0,001) e de classes farmacológicas (174 ± 0.7 versus 172 ± 0.7 009) também diminuíram significativamente. Dos parâmetros da monitorização ambulatória da pressão arterial de 172 ± 22 09 versus 172 ± 22 09 e o índice de massa ventricular esquerda (172 ± 26 versus 158 ± 60 g/m²; p=0,014) diminuíram significativamente.

Conclusão: Na população estudada de doentes com HTA resistente submetidos a DNR, esta foi uma intervenção segura e eficaz na redução da pressão arterial aos seis meses de seguimento. © 2013 Sociedade Portuguesa de Cardiologia. Publicado por Elsevier España, S.L. Todos os direitos reservados.

Introduction

Hypertension (HTN) is one of the main independent risk factors for global mortality. Its high prevalence and increasing incidence, including among young adults, are a major public health concern. 2

Despite the many approved and recommended therapeutic options, the rate of control of HTN is far from ideal.3 This was demonstrated by the PAP study on the prevalence, awareness, treatment and control of HTN in Portugal, 4 which showed not only a high prevalence of HTN in individuals aged 18 and over (42.1%) but also a low rate of control (11.2%). Although various factors contribute to poor control, in a significant number of cases HTN is resistant to drug therapy and it is therefore essential to identify such patients given their high risk of cardiovascular events. 5-7 The limitations of current drug therapies probably reflect the complex pathophysiological mechanisms involved in the development and persistence of HTN.^{8,9} Chronic activation of the sympathetic nervous system is an important mechanism in resistant HTN, and so a new interventional technique - renal denervation (RDN) - has been developed, consisting of endovascular application of radiofrequency energy in the renal arteries to modulate renal sympathetic activity. 10,11

The safety and efficacy of RDN were first documented in the Symplicity HTN-1¹¹ and Symplicity HTN-2 trials, ¹² and there is evidence that similar levels of blood pressure (BP) reduction are maintained in the medium term. ^{13,14} We recently published our initial experience with this technique to treat patients with resistant HTN. ¹⁵

The aim of this study was to assess the safety and efficacy of RDN for BP reduction at six months in patients with resistant HTN.

Methods

Study design and population

In this prospective registry of 177 consecutive patients evaluated in the resistant HTN outpatient clinic of a tertiary center between July 2011 and May 2013, resistant HTN was defined as office BP of ≥140/90 mmHg despite therapy with at least three antihypertensive drugs (including a diuretic) at maximum tolerated doses. ¹⁶ Possible secondary causes of HTN were excluded in all patients. Patients were selected for RDN in joint meetings between the cardiologists and nephrologists responsible for patient assessment

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